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# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

SS-13

BAC

NOVEMBER 30, 1943

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## CROPS

Harvest now virtually complete; general production picture can be gained from few key crops. *Wheat*, leading food grain, 836 million bushels, compared with 981 million last year and 738 million average of 1932-41. *Corn*, leading feed grain, 3,086 million bushels, second only to last year's 3,175 million bushels, and much larger than 1932-41 average of 2,349 million. *Potatoes*, leading vegetable, a record crop 469 million bushels, against 371 million last year and ten year average 363 million. *Hay*, chief roughage, 97 million tons, against 105 million last year and 83 million average. *Cotton*, chief fiber crop, 11,442,000 bales, compared with 12,824,000 bales last year and 12,474,000 average. *Apples*, important fruit, 88 million bushels commercial crop, against 129 million last year and 122 million average.

Acreage of important crops total 334 million acres harvested this year, against 327 million last year and 317 average. (Must be remembered that these 1932-41 averages include 2 drought years of low production.)

## CITRUS FRUIT

Indicated U. S. production of *oranges and tangerines*, exclusive of California *Valencias*, for 1943-44 season, 64,240,000 boxes. Comparable figure last season 59,231,000 boxes, and for 1941-42 was 55,029,000. Total *grapefruit* crop, exclusive of California "summer crop" for harvest next year, 46,716,000 boxes, compared with 48,614,000 boxes a year ago and 38,493,000 in 1941-42.

Crop of *Florida* early and mid-season oranges indicated 21 million boxes, 1.9 million above last season and 5.8 million over two years ago. *Valencia* output expected 17.5 million boxes, 500,000 under last year but 5.5 million boxes above 1941-42 crop. *Florida grapefruit* estimated 24.5 million boxes, compared with 27.3 million a year ago and 19.2 million two years ago. *Florida* packing houses in operation and fruit shipments increasing.

## FEED

Supply of feed concentrates this season only about 2 percent less than last season but there are more animals to feed. Prospective supply of all concentrates for 1943-44 crop year 169 million tons, against 173 million last year and 136 million average of 1937-41. Coming

inventory January 1 of grain-eating animals will show about 10 percent more animal units on farms than a year ago.

Thus the supply of feed concentrates per animal is around 12 percent smaller this season than last and about 7 percent below the five-year average. This means that normal stocks will be drawn down during the year to keep up rations to cows, hens, etc. Farms have enough hay and roughage except in limited drought areas; it is the protein concentrates that are short. Condition of western ranges November 1 averaged 79 percent of normal, compared with 86 percent a year ago; south-western wheat pasture much poorer than last year. WFA proposes to issue an order, effective January 1, affecting use of oilseed meals and animal protein by manufacturers of mixed feeds, purpose being to bring about a better distribution of protein in meal.

## LIVESTOCK

Farmers raised this year 125 million pigs, compared with 105 million in 1942 and 85 million in 1941; they have increased cattle numbers by over 5 million head in the last two years and poultry by nearly 50 percent. This is the answer to public pleas for more of these foods; also it underlies present feed difficulties.

Current run of *hogs* to market very heavy, taxing slaughter and storage facilities; peak of movement expected in December or January. Inspected slaughter of hogs in October broke all records, 12 percent above year ago. Hogs lighter weight than last year, nearly a third received in October at Chicago were under 200 pounds. Effective November 29, WFA support price on hogs at markets other than Chicago is \$1 per cwt. under

OPA ceiling. Chicago ceiling is \$14.75 and support price \$13.75. Cold storage stocks of pork November 1 were 339 million pounds, compared with 257 million year previous and 280 million November 5-year average.

*Cattle* slaughter under Federal inspection in October 1,275,000 head, 11 percent over September and exceeded only by record slaughter in October 1942. Peak usually is reached in October. Calf slaughter broke all records, was 9 percent above October last year. Proportion of cows in slaughter slightly over 50 percent but running a trifle under last fall. General tendency of cattle prices downward in October

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	Oct. 15 1943	Nov. 15 1943	Nov. 15 1943
Wheat, bu. . . . . dol.	1.35	1.37	1.48
Corn, bu. . . . . dol.	1.07	1.05	1.07
Oats, bu. . . . . dol.	.74	.75	.666
Cotton, lb. . . . . ct.	20.28	19.40	20.71
Potatoes, bu. . . . . dol.	1.28	1.33	1.20
Hogs, 100 lb. . . . . dol.	14.00	12.90	12.10
Beef cattle, 100 lb. . . dol.	11.80	11.30	9.05
Veal calves, 100 lb. . . dol.	13.20	12.70	11.30
Lambs, 100 lb. . . . . dol.	12.20	11.90	9.82
Butterfat, lb. . . . . ct.	50.7	50.9	<sup>1</sup> 46.6
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. dol.	3.30	3.37	<sup>1</sup> 2.94
Chickens, live, lb. . . ct.	24.6	24.3	19.0
Eggs, doz. . . . . ct.	45.2	47.1	<sup>1</sup> 49.5

<sup>1</sup>Adjusted for seasonal variation.

and early November. Total shipments of stocker and feeder cattle into Corn Belt about 32,000 head fewer this October than last. Reports outside Corn Belt also indicate cattle feeding under last year and smallest in last five years. In four months July-October, 9 percent fewer stockers and feeders went into Corn Belt than last year. Feed situation indicates also indicates that number long fed cattle during next 8 months will be under other recent years. Cold storage stocks of beef November 1 were 134 million pounds, compared with 112 million a month before and 117 million last year. Record slaughter of *sheep* and lambs in October, 2,633, 000 head. Some signs of liquidation. Lamb feeding indicated as considerably reduced under last year.

Meat bought by War Food Administration, January through September, 1,854 million pounds; deliveries for lend-lease same period 1,777 million pounds. Total bought, 1941 through Sept. 1943, was 4,379 million pounds; delivered for lend-lease same period 3,532 million pounds.

#### DAIRY

Milk production is slowly declining. Output on farms during September was 2.5 percent under previous September. More cows on hand offset by lower production per cow and by lowest percentage of cows milking in 15 years. Total milk production in September 9,255 million pounds. *Butter* production in September was 126.5 million pounds, the smallest for that month since 1931, and 8 percent under September 1942. *Butter* production has gradually been lagging farther behind last year but recent restriction on fluid cream sale may put more cream into butter. Limitation of fluid cream sales now effective in more than 100 large markets. Cold storage stock of butter October 1 was 232 million pounds, mostly owned by Government. However, Government war agencies will be virtually out of butter market until April 1 next. Total production of whole milk *cheese* in September 83.6 million pounds; American *cheese* (65.9 million pounds) 3 percent under September last year; other *cheese* 27 percent higher. Dairy situation of near future very dependent upon feed situation as well as returns to producers. Supply of protein feeds for 1943-44, in relation to animals requiring same, smallest in recent year. Feed grain prices have risen 37 percent during past year; oats and barley abnormally high relative to corn, which is held down by ceiling.

#### FARM LABOR

Total of 10,698,000 persons working on farms November 1, about 2 percent fewer than year previous, and a decline of about 1½ millions during month of October.

Decline was in hired workers; number *family* workers (8,064,000) about the same as month before. Number *hired* workers November 1 was 2,634,000, lowest for the date since the depression years and 8 percent under 1938-42 average. Need for farm help normally falls off at this time of year. Farm wages universally reported high, relative to usual rates. Wages to cotton pickers highest of record; varied from \$1.25 for picking 100 pounds of seed cotton in South Carolina to \$2.70 in Arizona. In California a ceiling of \$2.25 per 100 pounds was put on cotton picking in October. Reports of foreign workers in farm work October 30, included 35,468 Mexicans, 4,966 Jamaicans and 3,813 Bahamians.

#### LAND VALUES

Farm land values per acre, for country as a whole, rose 9 percent in year ending last March (by July 1 had

risen another 3 percent). Average rate of increase during year 1 percent a month, highest rate ever except in boom year 1919. By July, farm land values averaged 40 percent above the 1933 low, 23 percent above 1935-39 average, but still 40 percent below the inflationary peak in 1920. In general, rise in farm real estate reflects improvement in farm incomes; but so far land values have responded less rapidly than they did in other war. For every dollar increase in total cash income per acre, 1912-14 to 1917, land values increased \$3.57 by March 1918. The corresponding figure 1937-39 to 1942 and March 1943 is \$1.23. Farms selling much more readily; average number voluntary sales and trades 44.4 farms per thousand of all farms in year ending March 15, 1943. This level of voluntary sales was 6 percent above 1942, 30 percent above 1941, and over

#### CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	NOVEMBER 1943
Prices received by farmers . .	1910-14 = 100	192
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	167
Parity ratio . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	115
Wholesale prices of food . . .	1910-14 = 100	164
Retail prices of food . . . .	1910-14 = 100	<sup>1</sup> 178
Farm wage rates . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	<sup>1</sup> 272
Weekly factory earnings . . .	1910-14 = 100	<sup>2</sup> 402
RATIOS	LONG-TIME NOV. AVERAGE	NOVEMBER 1943
Hog-corn ratio, U. S. . . . .	12.3	12.3
Butterfat-feed ratio, U. S. . .	26.9	24.4
Milk-feed ratio, U. S. . . . .	1.38	<sup>3</sup> 1.45
Egg-feed ratio, U. S. . . . .	27.4	22.0
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	JAN.-OCT. 1942	JAN.-OCT. 1943
Milk, (bill. lb.) . . . . .	103	102
Eggs, (bill.) . . . . .	43	48
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) . . .	5,367	4,789
Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	710	770
Pork, (mil. lb.) . . . . .	7,753	9,527

<sup>1</sup>October figure.

<sup>2</sup>Factory pay roll per employed worker adjusted for seasonal variation. September figure.

<sup>3</sup>Includes an allowance for dairy feed payments.

60 percent above 1935-39.

#### FARM INCOME

Total income from farm products sold during October, including Government payments, \$2,293 million, compared with \$2,015 million in October 1942. Government payments this October \$29 million, compared with \$53 million a year ago.

For the 10 months January-October, total income \$15,900 million, which includes \$582 million Government payments. Comparable figure last year \$12,667 million, which included \$564 million Government payments.

For more detailed information, write the Division of Economic Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., or telephone Republic 4142 - Branch 4407.